

Hello to all esteemed members of the Committee. My name is Emily McEvoy and I'm a resident of Middletown. As a community organizer in Middletown and New Britain, I am also a part of the statewide Recovery for All Coalition. Today I am testifying in support of Senate Bills 21, 28, and 29, and would like to provide some suggestions to expand on the impact they will have, as they get amended in the coming weeks.

SB 21 and SB 28 put more pressure where it is required, and SB 29 is a good start at putting those revenue back where they belong the most.

However, I believe we need to do drastically more to put money in the pockets of those who were working, struggling to feed their families and pay healthcare bills during the pandemic, while those in our state who already have more than enough were living well, and earning money in their sleep on the backs of others. I appreciate the Committee's efforts to generate revenue. As our government, it is your job to do with that revenue what will **save lives**. As more people in our state navigate homelessness, drug addiction as a consequence of long-term trauma, and lack of healthcare, just to name a few things, we can't forget that this is indeed a life or death issue.

During 2020 and 2021, while stock portfolios were growing in Fairfield county, in Middletown, myself and others were working tirelessly to run a mutual aid program that put \$200 cash payments into the hands of residents who expressed their need to us. We helped over 300 individuals, but there are still hundreds who signed up two years ago whose requests have never been able to be fulfilled. This is because wealthy individuals do not have any means holding them accountable to share their resources. The state is the only entity that has the power to do this, to make sure nobody has more than they need while others are dying.

Some other measures that would help our tax codes work for good include child tax credits, which recently expired on the federal level, property tax credits for low income families, and an increase in 1) the corporation income tax rate and 2) personal income tax rates on our highest earners.

I would support the modification of these bills or the use of new legislation to get even more money into the hands of working families.

Connecticut is a complicated state for these two very different realities that the rich and poor live, and I know that gives you all a complicated job. As an organizer, I'm sad to say I've found it heartbreaking what I see on a daily basis in the community. I hope that the committee will find new and innovative ways to reduce wealth inequality in this state. These bills are a small but needed start.

Thank you!